REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 13-15 are amended; and Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.[1] No new matter is presented.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which after final rejection permits entering amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment presents the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal by incorporating the features of canceled Claim 4 into each of independent Claims 1 and 13-15. As the subject matter of Claim 4 was previously examined, this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-11, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Paul et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,052,709, Paul) in view of He et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0182383, He) and Sugiura et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,052,709, Sugiura); and Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over He in view of Kitaura et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0091569, Kitaura) and Sugiura.

In response to the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 13-15 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

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[1] e.g., original Claim 4 and p. 90, paragraph [0140] of the specification.

Independent Claim 1, for example, is amended to incorporate the features of Claim 4

and recites, in part, a mobile communication terminal, comprising:

> ... detection conditions acquisition means for acquiring detection
> conditions data including a letter string from a detection conditions
> distribution server ...
> wherein the detection conditions acquisition means sends category
> information input at a user interface of the mobile communication terminal
> to the detection conditions distribution server, and acquires detection
> condition data including a letter string relevant to the category indicated by
> the category information sent by the detection conditions distribution server.

Independent Claims 13-15 are amended to recite features similar to those emphasized

above. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of

independent Claims 1 and 13-15.

As described, for example, at p. 90, paragraph [0140] of the specification, the claimed

configuration allows a user of the mobile communication terminal to customize the detection

conditions by acquiring letter strings that correspond to specifically requested categories.

In rejecting the above noted features, as previously recited in Claim 4, the Office

Action relies on col. 5, l. 63 – col. 6, l. 16 of Paul. This cited portion of Paul describes that a

user terminal filtering application 200 includes an exclusion list manager 202 for creating,

storing and automatically maintaining a user exclusion list. The user exclusion list may be

automatically created and maintained and/or created and modified manually by the user or

service provider.

Thus Paul merely describes creating, storing and using a user exclusion list, but fails

to disclose that the user terminal is capable of sending category information to the service

provider, which responds with information including a letter string used to detect and extract

mail messages. More specifically, Paul fails to disclose a mobile communication terminal

that includes "detection conditions acquisition means [that] sends category information input

at a user interface of the mobile communication terminal to the detection conditions

distribution server, and acquires detection condition data including a letter string relevant to
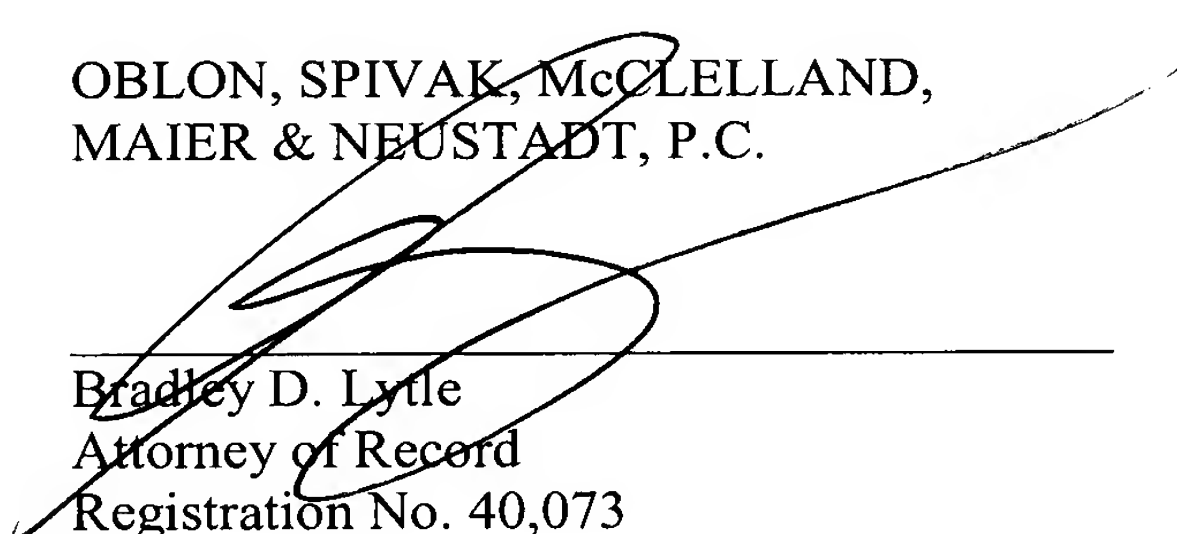
the category indicated by the category information sent by the detection conditions distribution server", as recited in Claim 4.

Further, none of He, Sugiura nor Kitaura, remedy the above noted deficiencies of Paul. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom) and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-15 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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